

United States Marshals Service District of Oregon

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District of Oregon

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Marshal Notes



As we close the third quarter of FY 2006 and look forward to a great Oregon summer, I wish to recognize a number of significant events that have taken place since our last Newsletter

in December of 2005.

Although we have experienced a number of personnel changes and additions, I want to highlight one in particular.

Leland Rakoz, who was the supervisor of our fugitive investigations section in Portland, requested to revert to criminal investigator, allowing him to spend more time doing what he liked best - working fugitive cases. Leland was appointed as a deputy U.S. Marshal in 1992 and assigned to the Portland Office. In 1994 he became a criminal investigator. In 2000, he was promoted to supervisor and transferred to the District of Montana where he managed prisoner operations. He transferred back to Oregon in 2002 and supervised fugitive investigations until April 30 of this year. Throughout all this time he has served with distinction. He is a true professional who has the respect of all who have worked with him. I can't thank or praise him enough for his great work and outstanding contributions to the district. The good thing is he remains in district and we will still have benefit of his superb investigative skills.

Operation FALCON II, which we conducted in April 2006, was a tremendous success due to the outstanding support and participation of 56 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in

Oregon. Regardless of the impressive results of Operation FALCON II, we may never really know how many people we spared from becoming victims of sexual offenses or violent crimes. But I can say that FALCON II made a difference; all the officers, troopers, detectives, deputies, and agents that participated helped make our communities safer. I sincerely thank everyone who played a part in this important operation.

In March, the Oregon State Police assigned a full-time detective to our HIDTA Fugitive Task Force. This is truly a significant enhancement to our task force capabilities. The Oregon State Police provide tremendous resources, expertise, and an expansive network throughout the state. This partnership will serve all of Oregon extremely well. I wish to thank Superintendent Ruecker for his strong support.

"...FALCON II made a difference; all the officers, troopers, detectives, deputies, and agents that participated helped make our communities safer."

The U.S. Marshals Service was very happy to be involved in the transfer of a piece of real property to the Southeast Uplift Neighborhood through Operation Goodwill, on June 6, 2006. This transfer was the culmination of a lot of hard work by a lot of people at the local, state, and federal level. This was a milestone event for Oregon since it was the first time we transferred real property for local use in this fashion.

Once again, I wish to thank our law enforcement partners and all of those that provide support and assistance to the USMS. We could not accomplish our mission without you. We always welcome your comments and suggestions on how we may accomplish our missions and work with you more effectively.

Investigations

OPERATION FALCON II

During the week of April 17 - 23, 2006, five federal, three state, nineteen county and twenty eight local agencies joined forces to apprehend 243 violent fugitives and clear 282 warrants in the State of Oregon. Of the 243 fugitives apprehended in this state, 76 were sex offenders whom had been convicted of offenses including sexual assault, rape, and failure to register as a sex offender. Law enforcement partners throughout the State of Oregon carried the banner of protecting innocent victims from sexual predators.

Operation FALCON II was sponsored by the USMS as a means of targeting sexual predators throughout 27 states west of the Mississippi River and highlighting "National Crime Victims Rights Week." During the operation, over 9,000 fugitives were arrested nationally and, of these, 1,102 were fugitives with some form of felony sex offense. These statistics demonstrate the extraordinary success that can be achieved when law enforcement agencies partner together with a single focus. The greatest impact may have been on the victims of these fugitives who lived in fear while the suspect was on the run. One important statistic that cannot be measured is that of would-be victims who were spared that fate by the removal of these dangerous felons from the street.



USMS and OSP partnering during FALCON II

INVESTIGATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Captured

On the morning of December 14, 2005, former Jackson County, Oregon resident, **DONALD PAUL NOTTER**, was deported from Ecuador and arrived at the George Bush International Airport in Houston, Texas where he was taken into custody by U.S. Marshals. Notter, age 39, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in the District of Oregon (Eugene) for Mail Fraud and Conspiracy. Donald Notter bilked Oregon Investors out of approximately three million dollars in an Oil-Water Separator scheme and was also allegedly involved in selling a fictitious computer program that could predict the stock market. On June 6, 2005, the Internal Revenue Service requested the assistance of the U.S. Marshals Service to locate and apprehend Notter. U.S. Marshals Service investigators learned that Notter and his wife had departed Miami, Florida on June 10, 2003 to Caracas, Venezuela and that Notter could be living near Quito, Ecuador. With the assistance of the Department of Diplomatic Security and the Ecuadorian Police, Donald Notter was located and arrested near Quito, Ecuador on December 12, 2005.



On January 5, 2006, **EDWARD JOHNSON**, one of Philadelphia's most wanted fugitives, was arrested in Portland, Oregon by U.S. Marshals. Johnson, age 23, was wanted on several warrants which included an attempt to commit murder, aggravated assault, and related firearms violations issued on August 26, 2005 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On August 22, 2005 Edward Johnson is alleged to have approached a man on foot near 3400 N Lee Street in Philadelphia and



shot him several times with a handgun. The victim—who was seated in a chair near a street corner—sustained multiple gunshot wounds to the neck and back. The Philadelphia Police Department is an active partner with the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force and they requested assistance in locating this suspect. Deputy U.S. Marshals learned that Johnson may be residing in Portland, Oregon and began to check locations in the SE Portland area. During surveillance, Johnson was observed as the passenger of a vehicle leaving a residence and he was arrested without incident.

JOSE CRUZ SERRATOS-PONCE, a 42 year old Mexican citizen, was arrested in Woodburn, Oregon on February 7, 2006 by the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force for the charge of Murder. Mexican authorities indicate that Jose Serratos-Ponce is suspected of shooting and killing Juan Arredondo Sanson in LaGrita, Guanajuato, Mexico on December 20, 1998. U.S. Marshals were working with Mexican law enforcement authorities after investigative leads indicated that he may have fled to the United States.



U.S. Marshals Service investigators developed information that Jose Cruz Serratos-Ponce was most likely living in Woodburn, Oregon under several false identities. After conducting surveillance at several locations in the Woodburn area, deputies observed Serratos-Ponce leaving a residence located in the 1000 block of 5th Street in Woodburn, Oregon. When approached by deputies, Serratos-Ponce attempted to flee in a vehicle and was arrested following a brief vehicle pursuit along Highway 211 east of Woodburn, Oregon.

February 14th 2006 was a fateful day for **JOSE MOISES LEON-ANDRADE**, a 45 year old Mexican citizen. **LEON-ANDRADE** was arrested in Tualatin, Oregon by the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force based on a provisional arrest warrant with a view towards extradition to Mexico for the charge of Murder. Mexican authorities indicate that Jose Moises Leon-Andrade is suspected of shooting and killing his girlfriend Santana Jaimes Pineda in Michoacan, Mexico. On January 14, 2004, law enforcement authorities in Cuitzeo, Michoacan, Mexico, discovered her body located near a stream in the village of Chupicuaro. U.S. Marshals had been working with Mexican law enforcement authorities after investigative leads indicated that he may have fled to the United States. U.S. Marshals Service investigators had learned that Jose Moises Leon-Andrade was most likely living in Woodburn, Oregon and was employed at a furniture manufacturing plant located in Tualatin, Oregon. Leon-Andrade was arrested without incident at his place of employment.

When **KARL GOEKE** was profiled on FOX's "America's Most Wanted" in late February 2006, no one suspected that he was living in Portland, OR. On March 22, 2006, at 5:30 PM, **KARL GOEKE** answered his apartment door and was greeted by Marshals Task Force members. As Goeke was being arrested, he stated his true name, even though a California driver's license and social security card indicated he was Bruce Thomas Makowski. The alias had one problem. Bruce Thomas Makowski died in 1997. Goeke's warrant was issued in Cecil County, Maryland on September 21, 2005, charging him with child sexual abuse and nine counts of 2nd degree sex offense involving young boys.



Investigations cont'd

The Investigations Section welcomes Oregon State Police Detective Andy Axelson as a full-time HIDTA Fugitive Task Force member. The Oregon State Police brings a wealth of expertise and valuable resources to the HIDTA Task Force as they join their full-time law enforcement partners from the Portland Police Bureau, Oregon National Guard and U.S. Marshals Service in the pursuit of the "worst-of-the-worst" fugitives in Oregon. HIDTA part-time Task Force members include the North Plains Police Department, Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Clackamas County Department of Community Justice, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. These part-time members bring their agency's high-priority fugitive cases and they work in partnership with the Task Force to focus statewide, national, and international resources to locate and apprehend these offenders.



While the HIDTA Task Force focuses on those fugitives with a drug nexus, the Ad-Hoc Task Force utilizes the talents of numerous agencies throughout the state on an as-needed basis. The ad-hoc agreements between the Marshals Service and these numerous agencies create an in-place organizational structure to quickly react to those cases needing special attention throughout the state.



FALCON II arrest in Wilsonville

This arrangement brings extraordinary resources to bear on individuals considered a special threat to the citizens of Oregon.

For example, during the first six months of the current fiscal year (10/01/05-03/31/06) the District of Oregon, HIDTA and Ad-Hoc Task Forces combined to close 342 warrants of which 60% were considered violent offenders. These statistics are an example of what can be accomplished when law enforcement agencies work in partnership for a common goal.

Eugene

By the time of our next newsletter issue, the U.S. Marshals Office in Eugene will be settled in their new surroundings at the Wayne L. Morse (WLM) U.S. Courthouse. A project many years in the making, the WLM Courthouse will provide long sought after security enhancements, ample prisoner cellblock space, and enough attorney/client space for decades to come.

These improvements are designed to incorporate the security technologies and needs of our ever changing environment, while maintaining the constitutionally protected access to the Federal Courts we all depend on.

Incorporated into the design of the courthouse is a seamless approach to bringing the Judiciary, the public and prisoners into one arena, yet maintaining an appropriate separation for all. This is a very welcome enhancement and it is expected that all segments of society may participate in the judicial process in a calm, safe and secure facility.

The spacious new surroundings for the Marshals Office and other agency's workspace is expected to provide the opportunity for the reasonable expansion for federal services into the distant future and to create a workplace that is enjoyable for employees.

A limited-use fitness facility, access to nearby riverfront bike and walking paths, public transportation and local eateries are just some of the attractions of the new courthouse. Occupancy is expected in October of 2006, with a formal dedication in December.



New Eugene Courthouse

Asset Forfeiture

The District's Asset Forfeiture Unit seized the "Drive Thru Wake Up/Clinton Park Market" located at 5633 SE Division on June 9, 2004. The case was a joint investigation by Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, DEA and FBI. The market was a business front and distribution location for Adnan Wahib Fares who sold pseudophedrine to individuals for manufacture of methamphetamine. The business was located across the street from Atkinson Elementary and Franklin High Schools. The property was forfeited February 14, 2005 and Fares was sentenced to 135 months in Federal prison.

The Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Program, Inc. (SEUL) contacted the government on behalf of the schools and neighbors to ensure that the property was not subject to future illegal use. The SEUL wanted to purchase the property, but the U.S. Marshals Service and U. S. Attorneys Office decided to Transfer the property to the SEUL through Operation Goodwill.

This program is a method to transfer property in a short period of time to organizations to build goodwill between law enforcement and the community. The properties must be used to support drug abuse treatment, drug and crime prevention and education, housing, job skills, and other community-based public health and safety programs.

After a year of hard work to obtain necessary approvals, the Attorney General signed the approval on May 16, 2006. This is the first time the District of Oregon has transferred Real Property through the Operation Goodwill program.



USM Merrill at press conference

Iraq

Deputy Marshal Mike Benbow from the Portland office recently completed a six month assignment in Baghdad Iraq. Deputy Benbow, who is a member of the U.S. Marshals Special Operations Group (SOG), was stationed at the US Embassy in Baghdad Iraq where he participated in numerous missions dealing with the Iraqi Judicial System. Deputy Marshals from the SOG have been working in Iraq since early 2004. Deputy Benbow is the second Deputy Marshal from the District of Oregon to participate in this voluntary assignment. Deputy Marshal Eric Wahlstrom, also a SOG member, served for six months in Baghdad during 2005.



Transporting a detainee

Deputy Benbow and his team worked closely with the Regime Crimes Liaison Office to oversee and supplement the security for the Saddam Hussein trial. The USMS is in charge of all security related matters dealing with the Iraqi Higher Tribunal trials. This involves the protection and movement of the judges, witnesses, prosecutors, and the defense attorneys. The Deputy Marshals also provided training to the contingency of

Iraqi guards in order to enable them to work side by side with the USMS and the U.S. military.

Deputy Benbow and other SOG deputies also assisted the Iraqi Ministry of Justice to develop security protocols and procedures for their new courthouses. Deputy Benbow and the other Deputies traveled regularly to the Central Criminal Court of Iraq located in Baghdad in order to provide guidance, training and equipment to their Iraqi counterparts.

Deputy Benbow also assisted in designing the new primary courthouses which are being built throughout Iraq to provide a more secure environment for members of the Iraqi Court family.



Deputy Benbow with fellow operators in IRAQ

Harold (Hal) Hansell

On June 26th, the U.S. Marshals Office bid farewell to a dear friend. Harold (Hal) V. Hansell, began working with the Marshals Office in May, 1991 as an Intermittent Deputy U.S. Marshal, following a twenty-eight year career with the Oregon State Police. Hal passed away on June 19th following a six week stay in the hospital after suffering a heart attack.

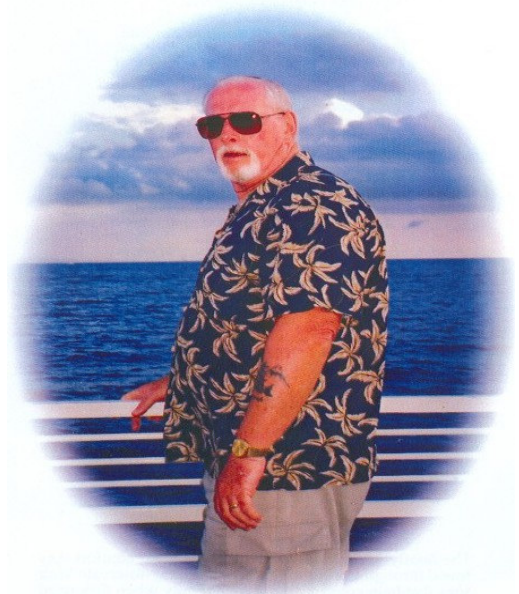
A giant of a man with a tender heart, Hal worked alongside Deputies seizing vessels under court order, transporting prisoners, serving process and providing court security. Hal traveled the world representing the U.S. Marshals, competing in the World Games, Police/Firefighter Olympics going to such places as Melbourne, Australia; Calgary, Canada; Stockholm, Sweden and Barcelona, Spain. His Olympic medals in power-lifting, shot-put, and the bench press covered an entire table at his memorial service.

Hal was given full police honors at a service attended by hundreds. The Multnomah County Sheriffs Office, Portland Police Bureau and Oregon State Police provided a 21-gun salute, taps, a bagpipe rendition of Amazing Grace and presentations of the United States flag to both his loving wife of 45 years, Patsy and his mother Hilda.

Our thanks to all in the law enforcement community and the Court family who provided so much support to Hal's family during this difficult time.

Hal, you will be missed. Aloha, my friend.

Harold Hansell



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Welcome Aboard

John Shoemaker

John Shoemaker transferred to Portland this past May from the Northern District of California where he supervised the San Jose Sub Office for the past five years. John assumed the position of Supervisor in our Investigations Section and he is a very welcome addition to our team.



John—having been born and raised in Port Angeles, Washington, and having earned both his BA in business and his MA in Political Science from Washington State University—is no stranger to the Pacific Northwest.

John joined the Marshals Service in April 1986 and his first duty station was Las Vegas, Nevada. John transferred to the Northern District of California in October 1999 and was promoted to Supervisor in May 2001. We are pleased that he chose to make his home here in Oregon and we will all benefit from his wealth of knowledge and experience.

James Kim

James Kim transferred to Medford after serving two years in the Virgin Islands at St. Thomas. Prior to St. Thomas, James served in the U.S. Marshals Office in San Diego. Before joining the Marshals Service, James served four years in the U.S. Navy as an Intelligence Specialist.



James recently completed the U.S. Marshals Service Special Operation Group (SOG) basic training at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. As a result, James will be traveling frequently to assist with the SOG mission.

Cory Cunningham

Cory Cunningham who, after recently completing U.S. Marshals Service basic training, reported for duty in the Portland office on May 11, 2006.



Prior to joining the Marshals Service, Cory worked for six years in the Spokane County Jail as a Corrections Officer. Cory is a graduate of Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Cory brings a wealth of experience and he is a very welcome addition to our operations team.

Ross Mueske

A welcome addition to our Eugene Office, Deputy Ross Mueske comes already with a wealth of experience. As a private extradition expert, Deputy Mueske was first hired by the U.S. Marshals Office in the Central District of California and later transferred to the District of Rhode Island. Deputy Mueske has been recognized by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force two years running, once in 2004 during Operation Blockbuster, and again in 2005 for efforts targeting dealers and suppliers of the Latin Kings Street Gang in Operation Royal Flush. He was also the recipient of the Providence Police Chief's Award this past year for his efforts in closing a number of fugitive cases. While Ross' predecessor, Alex Stacy, was a real slugger on the baseball diamond, as a former wrestling coach, Ross brings a new level of athletic prowess into our midst! Welcome back to the West Coast Ross!



Rufus Black

Rufus Black comes to us from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where he was employed with the Marine Corps School of Infantry Training Command and Division Personnel Administration Center as a Legal Technician. We are very fortunate to have Rufus join our team as a Criminal Clerk in the Portland office.



Prior to his civilian position at the Training Command, Rufus served honorably with the U.S. Marine Corps for 20 years and is currently retired. While serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, Rufus was awarded the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (w/Silver Star), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (w/2 stars).

Don Holden

Don Holden is originally from Portland, Oregon and he received his BS in Administration of Justice from Portland State University.



Prior to joining the Marshals Service, Don served in Iraq as a Scout Platoon Leader, 2nd Battalion 112th Armored Regiment, 56th Brigade, 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, Fort Worth, Texas.

Don has been honored with the Army Achievement Medal, The National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Ribbon, Texas Combat Ribbon and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

Don commenced U.S. Marshals Basic Training on May 9, 2006, and will graduate on July 26, 2006. Deputy Holden will report to the U.S. Marshals Office in August 2006.